

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 and 30-33 have been allowed in the referenced office action. Claims 18-20 and 23-38 stand rejected in the referenced office action. Claims 21, 22, 29 and 34 were objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten as independent claims.

In the present document, claims 1, 15 and 17 have been amended to replace functional language with operative language. Independent claim 18 has been amended to include the substantive limitations of claim 21. Claim 21 has been canceled. Amendments have been made, where appropriate, to change the dependency of claims in view of the cancellation of claim 21.

No new matter has been added by the amendments. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner's objections and rejections are addressed in substantially the same order as in the referenced office action.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 18-20, 23-28 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by *Dowell* (US5899958). Claim 18 is an independent claim.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the substantive limitations of claim 21, a claim that has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten as an independent claim. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claims 18-20, 23-28, as amended, are patentable under 35 USC §§ 102-203 over *Dowell* and the prior art of record.

No fee is believed to be due for the amendments. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 (414-29494-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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